

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle comprising:

an internal combustion engine;

a catalyst operatively associated with the internal combustion engine for processing exhaust gases of the internal combustion engine; and

a fuel cell thermally coupled with the catalyst in such a manner that heat in waste gases of the fuel cell is supplied at least partially to the catalyst to heat the catalyst.

2. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the fuel cell includes a waste gas pipeline that is connected with the catalyst in such a manner that hot waste gases from the fuel cell can be passed through the catalyst.

3. The vehicle of claim 2, wherein a switch, with which the waste gases can be passed through the catalyst or discharged to the atmosphere.

4. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a heat exchanger, via which the waste gases of the fuel cell transfer a portion of their heat to the catalyst.

5. The vehicle of claim 4, wherein the heat exchanger includes a helix tube, which is disposed spirally about the catalyst.

6. The vehicle of claim 5, further comprising an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger.

7. The vehicle of claim 4, further comprising an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger.

8. The vehicle of claim 3, further comprising an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger.

9. The vehicle of claim 2, further comprising an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger.

10. The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising an afterburner, in which unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted and which is disposed between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger.

11. A method for making a vehicle comprising the steps of: ~

operatively associating a catalyst with the internal combustion engine for processing exhaust gases of the internal combustion engine; and

thermally coupling a fuel cell with the catalyst in such a manner that heat in waste gases of the fuel cell is supplied at least partially to the catalyst to heat the catalyst.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of connecting a waste gas pipeline of the fuel cell with the catalyst in such a manner that hot waste gases from the fuel cell can be passed through the catalyst.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of providing a switch, with which the waste gases can be passed through the catalyst or discharged to the atmosphere.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a heat exchanger, via which the waste gases of the fuel cell transfer a portion of their heat to the catalyst.

15. The vehicle of claim 14, further comprising the step of spirally disposing a helix tube of the heat exchanger about the catalyst.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of disposing an afterburner between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger, in which afterburner unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of disposing an afterburner between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger, in which afterburner unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of disposing an afterburner between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger, in which afterburner unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of disposing an afterburner between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger, in which afterburner unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of disposing an afterburner between the fuel cell and at least one of the catalyst and heat exchanger, in which afterburner unreacted reactants from the fuel cell are combusted.